

Application No. 09/414,483
Office Action dated July 22, 2009
Response dated August 14, 2009

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 52 (cancelled)

Claim 53 (previously presented): A building component, comprising:

a plurality of lengths of lumber connected together to form a rectangular frame around an opening;

a foam material provided in said opening;

a reinforcement skin of composite material adhering to said lengths of lumber and to said foam material at one side of said frame;

said reinforcement skin extending over said lengths of lumber at said one side of said frame and also over said opening, whereby said rectangular frame is reinforced by said reinforcement skin against the action of racking forces on said rectangular frame; and

metal corner connectors interposed between and interconnecting said lengths of lumber at corners of said rectangular frame;

said corner connectors each comprising a box-shaped intermediate section;

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said intermediate section having opposite vertical side walls, a horizontal top wall and a horizontal bottom wall;

said corner connectors each including a horizontal flange projecting from one of said vertical side walls and a vertical flange projecting upwardly from said horizontal top wall; and

said lengths of lumber comprising vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber extending at right angles to and in abutment longitudinally thereof with said horizontal top wall and said one of said side walls, respectively, and being in face-to-face contact, laterally thereof, with said vertical and horizontal flanges, respectively.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A building component as claimed in claim 53, wherein said reinforcement skin extends over the entirety of said one side of said frame.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A building component as claimed in claim 53, wherein said reinforcement skin overlaps and adheres to the periphery of said rectangular frame.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A building component as claimed in claim 53, wherein said reinforcement skin overlaps and adheres to an opposite side of said frame.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A building component as claimed in claim 53, wherein said composite material is reinforced with fiber.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A building component as claimed in claim 53, including a fiber mesh reinforcing said composite material.

Claims 59 to 62 (cancelled)

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Claim 63 (previously presented): In combination in a building structure:

a vertical length of lumber;

a horizontal length of lumber; and

a metal corner connector interposed between and interconnecting said vertical and horizontal lengths;

said corner connector comprising a box-shaped intermediate section;

said intermediate section having opposite vertical side walls, a horizontal top wall and a horizontal bottom wall;

said corner connector including a horizontal flange projecting from one of said vertical side walls and a vertical flange projecting upwardly from said horizontal top wall;

said vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber extending at right angles to and in abutment longitudinally thereof with said horizontal top wall and said one of said side walls, respectively and being in face-to-face contact, laterally thereof, with said vertical and horizontal flanges, respectively; and

said vertical length of lumber having a longitudinal side surface flush with said one of said vertical side walls and said horizontal length of lumber having a longitudinal side surface flush with said horizontal bottom wall.

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Claim 64 (previously presented): In combination in a building structure:

a vertical length of lumber;

a horizontal length of lumber; and

a metal corner connector interposed between and interconnecting said vertical and horizontal lengths;

said corner connector comprising a box-shaped intermediate section;

said intermediate section having opposite vertical side walls, a horizontal top wall and a horizontal bottom wall;

said corner connector including a horizontal flange projecting from one of said vertical side walls and a vertical flange projecting upwardly from said horizontal top wall;

said vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber extending at right angles to and in abutment longitudinally thereof with said horizontal top wall and said one of said side walls, respectively and being in face-to-face contact, laterally thereof, with said vertical and horizontal flanges, respectively;

said horizontal length of lumber being one of a pair of horizontal lengths of lumber, and said horizontal flange being one of a pair of horizontal flanges projecting from mid-sections of respective ones of said vertical side walls and fitting snugly on respective ones of said pair of horizontal lengths of lumber;

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said vertical flange projecting from a mid-section of said horizontal top wall and said vertical length of lumber being one of a pair of vertical lengths of lumber in contact with opposite sides of said vertical flange and in longitudinal abutment with said horizontal top wall; and

said vertical lengths of lumber each having a longitudinal side surface flush with a respective one of said vertical side walls and said horizontal lengths of lumber each having a longitudinal side surface flush with said horizontal bottom wall.